

China furniture company keen to expand to Tanjung Manis

Marilyn Ten

KUCHING: A timber and furniture company from China has stated its intention to expand its wings to Tanjung Manis, Mukah.

Xuzhou Shenghe Wood Co Ltd president Wang Fuhua personally conveyed his company's plans to Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan during an online meeting here yesterday.

During the meeting, Wang said Tanjung Manis was selected as a potential location in view that the area has existing infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water supply as well as ports.

The company's involvement in Sarawak will enable them to be actively involved in the Sarawak Furniture Park project, he said.

Wang also expressed interest in investing in the state after seeing the potential of Sarawak as one of the strategic locations for the opening of their factory.

Meanwhile, Awang Tengah said the Sarawak government's efforts to provide a conducive investment environment is to achieve the furniture export target of around RM6 billion by 2030.

According to him, among the state government's efforts are to preserve raw materials through planted forests, bamboo plantation, strengthen the Sarawak Young Designers (SayD'SignersSarawak) programme with Indonesia's Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) and Milan Designers,



Awang Tengah (second right) having a light moment during the meeting. Also seen are Malcom (third right) and Hashim (right).

and to establish a policy that allows the import of timber species no longer available in Sarawak.

The International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development Minister said the company's venture into Sarawak will make them one of the anchor companies that will be actively involved in realising the Furniture Park projects in Kuching, Bintulu and Tanjung Manis.

He explained that it is the policy of the state government to always be concerned and

allow the recruitment of foreign workers in support of investment in value-added products such as furniture.

He also suggested that training programmes for local workers can be implemented by using the existing timber training centre facilities in Tanjung Manis such as the Tanjung Manis Timber Training Centre which is used to train individuals in the manufacturing of furniture and wood carving as well as quality control and wood ranking. Also present at the meeting were Assistant Minister

of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development Datuk Malcolm Mussen Lamoh, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development permanent secretary Datu Liaw Soon Eng, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) general manager Hashim Bojet, and Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) Shanghai trade commissioner Syed Mohamad Fairus Shaik Ismail.